

Louisiana Fishermen are Leading Oil Leak Clean-up Efforts
May 1, 2010

WASHINGTON D.C. – Congressman Charlie Melancon (LA-03) will travel to St. Bernard Parish today to meet with commercial and recreational fishermen involved in the oil leak containment and clean-up work. Congressman Melancon will also meet with St. Bernard Parish President Craig Taffaro and other local, state and federal officials to evaluate current efforts to minimize damage to Louisiana's fragile coastal marshes and fishing grounds. Congressman Melancon represents St. Bernard Parish and most of coastal southeastern Louisiana in the U.S. Congress.

Yesterday, Congressman Melancon [toured](#) by Coast Guard plane the oil sheen in the Gulf of Mexico caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil rig disaster with two Cabinet secretaries and the head of the Environmental Protection Agency. Following the tour, the officials met with the head of BP and state and local officials involved in the response effort.

The administration visit followed a Wednesday [request](#) from Congressman Melancon that Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar immediately review the current response and containment efforts to the oil rig leak. In his letter, Congressman Melancon urged the Cabinet secretaries to evaluate how the containment and clean-up efforts could be accelerated in prevent the oil from damaging Louisiana's fragile coastline and fishing grounds.

The Deepwater Horizon platform was located 50 miles off the coast of Louisiana's Third Congressional District.

Thursday, Congressman Melancon returned to Louisiana from Washington to help coordinate the disaster response efforts. He traveled to Plaquemines Parish to meet with local officials and make sure they have the resources they need to prevent further damage to Louisiana's coastline.

Congressman Melancon also [contacted](#) the Secretary of Commerce and the head of NOAA's Fisheries Service Thursday urging them to prepare to direct disaster funding to Louisiana's commercial and recreational fishermen. In his letter, Congressman Melancon noted that the oil intrusion resulting from the Deepwater Horizon oil rig disaster would likely damage the fragile habitats on which Louisiana's fishermen, oystermen, and shrimpers depend.

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